

City of Cleveland  
Department of Public Works

# 2021 FALL ADULT SOFTBALL SPECIAL GAME RULES

**TO: THE GREATER CLEVELAND UMPIRES & TEAM MANAGERS—**

***Please review these special rules with both coaches at the pre-game conference!***

**ELIGIBILITY CHECKS:** All players **MUST have a driver's license or photo ID** at every game with their contract card. The league director will send a representative to check eligibility during the season. Illegal players will result in disciplinary action to and loss of forfeit refundable monies. In all playoff games, coaches will have their teams line-up before games for a eligibility check.

**TIME LIMIT:** No new inning may start after **60** minutes, unless the game is tied. There is a **10-minute Grace Period** only for the first games only; however, grace time used is part of the 60-minute time limit. **Curfew:** No inning may start after 10:55 p.m. **Grace Period:** 10 minute grace period for first games of the day only!

**PLAYERS:** Teams must have 9 players to start, ***continue, and finish*** a game (the tenth spot is an out). Teams may play short-handed because of injuries or emergencies. Teams **may not** play short-handed because of ejections. Vacant spots in the batting order are outs.

**EQUIPMENT:**

1. Metal spikes **are not** allowed.
2. Before each game, the scorekeeper will issue game balls; after the game, the umpires will give each team a used ball. Men's and Coed leagues use a 12" ball.
3. **BATS**—the information sheet concerning legal and illegal bats is **summarized on the back side**, posted on the bulletin boards, and the scorekeeper has an extra copy.
4. Metal Rods or Donuts are **ILLEGAL**; only A.S.A. approved warm-up equipment may be used.

**JEWELRY:**

1. ALL **eye rings** must be removed—players may not tape over them.
2. Large chains that hang outside the uniform are not permitted.
3. Players **must** remove any jewelry the umpires deem unsafe or detrimental to the game of softball.

**COURTESY RUNNER:** may be used once per inning. The courtesy runner is the person who made **the last out**. **EXCEPTION:** If the same batter reaches base more than once an inning, the **COURTESY RUNNER** may run for that player each time.

**STEALING:** is legal in Men's play only. **The ASA Stealing rule is explained on the back side.**

**EP (EXTRA PLAYER)** – TEAMS ARE ALLOWED TO HAVE (2) EP'S IN THEIR LINEUP, NO DH WILL BE USED.

**HOME RUN LIMIT** is (5) five over the fence homeruns per team. Batters and base runners **DO NOT** run the bases; all runners go immediately to their dugout. Excess home runs are OUTS.

**RUN SPREAD:** 15 RUNS AFTER 3 INNINGS **and/or** 10 RUNS AFTER 5 INNINGS.

**UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT** will not be tolerated!! For our league to be successful the teams must respect each other and respect the umpires and the scorers; in turn, the umpires and scorers must respect the players and coaches.

**PLEASE READ THE BACK SIDE OF THIS DOCUMENT**

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### **EXTRA INNING RUNNER ON SECOND BASE AT START OF THE INNING:**

The visiting team will start with a runner on second base which is the last batter from the previous inning in any game that goes into extra time (Beyond time limit) or extra inning (due to a tied score).

**Alcoholic Beverages** are prohibited in the parks and parking lots before, during, and after games.

**NOTE:** The Official U.S.A. Rulebook will be used except where noted in the League Rules.  
***Our League Rule will supercede the U.S.A. Rule in a case of conflict.***

### **STEALING**

**Stealing (in Men's Slow Pitch Only) is legal so long as the runners do not leave their bases until the pitched ball reaches the front edge of home plate.**

Runners may also advance if (a) the pitcher catches a return throw anywhere other than near the pitching plate or the pitcher fails to catch the return throw, (b) the pitch hits the umpire, (c) the return throw hits the batter or umpire, or (d) a play is made on any runner.

**Runners may not advance if (a) the pitch hits the ground before the front edge of home plate, hits the batter, hits home plate, or (b) the runner stops or is clearly not advancing when the catcher throws the ball back to the pitcher in the vicinity of the pitcher's plate and the pitcher catches the ball. (NO DELAYED STEALS)**

Runners may steal on legal or illegal pitches.

### **BROOKSIDE PARK GROUND RULE:**

The areas down the foul lines at Rose and Elder fields are not completely fenced in. If a batted ball hits in fair territory and then rolls past the 300' arc in foul territory, the umpire will rule it a GROUND RULE DOUBLE.

**Any ball a defensive player throws, kicks, or fumbles past the 300' arc, will cause the umpires to award each base runner two bases from the point the infraction occurred.**

### **APPROVED SOFTBALL BATS:**

ALL BATS APPROVED BY THE ASA ARE LEGAL. ILLEGAL BATS (ASA NON APPROVED) ARE PRINTED BELOW.  
**THE USA BAT RULE (#3—SEC. 1) IS PRINTED ON PAGES 37—39 OF THE 2021 USA RULEBOOK.**

### **ILLEGAL (NON APPROVED) BATS:**

A complete list of all USA Non-Approved bats is posted on the bulletin board. Additionally, each team manager and scorekeeper has been given the list.

THE ASA WEBSITE: [www.usasoftball.com](http://www.usasoftball.com) HAS A SECTION ON EQUIPMENT WITH COLOR PICTURES OF ALL NON APPROVED BATS. THIS SITE IS UPDATED FREQUENTLY.

### **PENALTY FOR USING AN ILLEGAL BAT:**

FIRST OFFENSE: EJECTION & ONE GAME SUSPENSION

SECOND OFFENSE: EJECTION & TWO GAME SUSPENSION

THIRD OFFENSE: EJECTION & SUSPENDED FOR 2021

**PLEASE READ THE FRONT SIDE OF THIS DOCUMENT**

**Any questions or suggestions – please call the league administrator at 664-2346.**